



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012 – (213) 974-1465

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. James Cragin
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore
Mr. Michael A. Russell

MINUTES **OF THE REGULAR MEETING** **OF JUNE 16, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Montano at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL

Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
John Hammargren
Carl Moore
Michael Russell

Absent

James Cragin

Staff Present

B. Eugene Romig, Executive Office
Dedie Ward, Commission Services
Sherry Scates, Staff

Guests

Kirk Barrow
Jui Ling Ho
Sonya Noil
Linda Reusser, M.S.W.
Suzan Pour-Sarae
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Office

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2004

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Moore and unanimously carried, the minutes of June 9, 2004 were approved as submitted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

No report

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund's remains **\$636.71**.

CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

No Correspondence or reports

DISCUSSION WITH RICHARD SHUMSKY, CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer, advised that his department is facing \$82 million dollars in state and federal cut backs, which would result in closure of the youth camps. Mr. Shumsky noted that the legislature has restored his department's federal funding and he feels confident that the governor will follow suit. News editorials across the state are overwhelmingly urging elected officials to restore Probation funding. The youth camps have been in operation since the 1930's and are absolutely vital to the juvenile justice system. Elimination of the camps would leave juvenile judges little choice but to send thousands of youths with criminal records back to their homes, possibly endangering the safety of the public; or youths would have to be sent to the state's youth prison system where they would serve longer terms under harsher conditions and at a higher cost. Mr. Shumsky thanked SEIU Local 660 and their Research Associate, Suzan Pour-Sanae, for all their efforts in securing the funding to keep the camps open. Chair Montano asked for an updated list of Probation's placement homes, which Lydia Fernandez, Ombudsman, will provide.

Mr. Shumsky stated that when he took over as Chief Probation Officer approximately 7 years ago, there were 3 juvenile halls accommodating over 2,300 inmates, which meant that at least 600 juveniles had to sleep on the floor. They now have 1,600 inmates in juvenile halls and approximately 600 youth on alternative detention who are electronically monitored in the community. Within the next few months, there will be 440 new beds available in the two new buildings at Central Juvenile Hall and 220 new beds in Los Padrinos. Mr. Shumsky feels that for the first time in over fifty years, juvenile inmates will now be housed adequately.

Mr. Shumsky stated that he is also very proud of his department's jobs program and hopes to expand the program so that every juvenile inmate will have a job upon graduation. Commissioner Hammargren stated that the Commission wants to work closely with probation to help ease their workload and are willing to do whatever is needed. Mr. Shumsky thanked Commissioners for their hard work and dedicated efforts to keep the group homes up to par and noted that the Commission's inspection reports are of great value to his department.

Mr. Shumsky commented that accountability and measurement are paramount in gauging the success of any department and their programs and thanked David Jansen, Chief Administrative Officer, for his direction and insight on this issue. He also stated that his department is working closely with the many other departments that touch the lives of juvenile inmates to coordinate services. Mr. Shumsky introduced Alisa Williams, Program Analyst for the Probation Department, who gave an overview of the department's strategic plan. Ms. Williams advised that Probation's *Strategic Plan* and the *Performance Counts* program, which are both in the draft stage, will work synergistically to provide the department with a road map for collecting and reporting performance information. Ms. Williams invited Commissioners to review and comment on their Strategic Plan when it is complete.

Several representatives from the Department of Children and Family Services were also in attendance at the meeting: Linda Reusser, Kirk Barro, Jui Ling Ho, and Sonya Noil. Ms Linda Reusser, Quality Assurance Division, Out of Home Care Investigation Section, stated their department is currently in the process of being reorganized and is updating its procedures to reflect the current structure of the department. DCFS representatives answered questions and addressed concerns of the Commission, and also provided

pertinent information, input and comments about various issues which were raised during the meeting. Commissioners and DCFS representatives agreed that they would like to work more closely together in the future and collaborate on methods to improve the process of notifying effected agencies on deficiencies found in facilities and also on ensuring corrective action and follow up on reported facilities is conducted in a timely manner.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that it would be beneficial if representatives from all of the State and County agencies and Commissioners could meet and participate in a “round table” discussion to address concerns relating to placement facilities and develop a strategic plan of action to address those concerns.

Staff informed the Commission that David Sanders, Executive Director, DCFS was scheduled to attend next week’s meeting. All of the DCFS representatives were invited to attend the meeting to offer their input and comments. DCFS representatives stated that they would invite their Division Chief, Ed Sosa to attend and address the Commission.

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

Carlin Home – 57 #1

Commissioner Bacio visited this facility at 3583 Carlin Avenue, Lynwood, on June 10th and found on one at home.

Lugo Home – 57 #3

Commissioner Bacio visited this facility at 3876 Lugo Avenue, Lynwood, on June 10th. The Director was C. Dowell and the escort was S. Diaz. The facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported.

M & R Group Home – 65 #1

Commissioner Hammargren and Chair Montano visited this facility at 511 Avenida Alipaz, Walnut, on June 10th and were escorted by Brianne Williams. The facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported. Commissioners did note that the first aid kit needed to be restocked.

New Dawn Group Emancipation – 72 #1

Commissioner Hammargren and Chair Montano visited this facility at 20723 Walnut Valley Drive, Walnut, on June 10th and were escorted by Sean

Hardge. The facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported. Commissioners did note that the first aid kit needed to be restocked.

Linden Center/Gardner House – 63 #2

Commissioner Hammargren and Chair Montano visited this facility at 170 South Gardner, Los Angeles, on June 14th and were escorted by Gene Hung. The facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory**. Areas of concern: There were no emergency phone numbers or emergency plans posted.

Boys Republic Silverlake – 7 #3

Commissioner Hammargren and Chair Montano visited this facility at 1815 Radcliff Street, Los Angeles, on June 14th and were escorted by Lisa Denbo. The facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported. Commissioners did note that the first aid kit needed to be restocked.

Manna Manor/Banning Home – 66 #1

Chair Montano visited this facility at 205 East “N” Street, Wilmington, on June 15th in the morning and found no one at home. She returned later in the afternoon and was escorted by Juanita Antiporda. The facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported. Commissioners did note that the first aid kit needed to be restocked.

Greater Hope Society 1 – 49 #3

Chair Montano visited this facility at 26303 Belle Porte, Harbor City, on June 15th and was escorted by Mrs. Johnson. The facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory**. Area of concern: there was an empty unused refrigerator on lower level. Chair Montano advised Mrs. Johnson to either take the door off of the refrigerator, or strap it closed and turn the refrigerator around so that the door is against the wall.

Chair Montano noted that this facility is one of the nicest homes in that neighborhood and the residents are very well behaved. In spite of the fact that the home's director has done everything that the Neighborhood Council has asked of them, the Council continues to harass them and has made it quite clear that this group home is not welcome in their neighborhood.

Penny Lane #3 – 86 #1

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility at 13804 Osborne Street, Arleta, on June 10th and were escorted by Director Markortz. The facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported.

Penny Lane Main Facility – 85 #1

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility at 15302 Rayen Street, North Hills, on June 14th and were escorted by Director Markortz. The facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Cannella will be honored this summer by the Montrose Shopping Park Association and the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley for his patriotism and commitment to “giving back to his community.” A plaque honoring Commissioner Cannella will be placed on the Montrose Vietnam War Memorial. Commissioner Cannella is one of the individuals responsible for the presidential proclamation of National Flag Week in 1966.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE MEETING)

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates/Dedie Ward
Staff, Commission Services